

In this study we have discussed the discovery, character, and extent of the Great Basin.

The history of the buffalo in Utah is summarized. The Mormon cricket-California gull episode is reviewed and some original source material is included from the Latter-day Saint Church Journal History.

The plants and animals found, in Utah by government exploring parties led by Fremont, Stansbury and Gunnison, are discussed. Remy and Brechley visited Utah in the fall of 1855 and made many observations on the natural history of the Great Basin. Their visit and observations are briefly reviewed.

Bunch grass and sparsely scattered sagebrush were common on the islands of Great Salt Lake and in the Utah, Salt Lake, Ogden and Cache Valleys of Utah.

By the end of the year 1855, 101 plants; 611 insects; 6 fish; 7 amphibians and reptiles; 113 birds; and 93 mammal species were known to occur in the Great Basin. Utah was the type locality for 13 plants; 6 insects; 4 reptiles; 1 bird; and 2 mammal species.

Spongilla fragilis Found in Utah Lake and Salem Pond

The sponge *Spongilla fragilis* Leidy was known from only one locality in Utah prior to October, 1939, when it was collected at the Brigham Young University Lakeside Biological Laboratory, on the mouth of Provo River. It was found to be rather common forming fairly larger growths on the willows and tree branches which have fallen in the river. This species was previously reported, by this writer, as occurring in Salamander Lake, on Mt. Timpanogos, in the Proceedings Utah Academy of Sciences, Vol. IX, 1932, pp. 113-115. Another sponge *Spongilla lacustris* (L.) known from Utah, also occurs in Utah Lake. *Spongilla fragilis* was also collected in Salem pond, 15 miles south of Provo, on Jan. 18, 1940, by Dr. D. E. Beck and students. Large specimens 10 to 12 inches in diameter were removed from the bottom of the pond.—V. M. T.

Dr. Pfouts Contributes Butterflies

A rather representative collection of the butterflies of Utah County, taken at Payson and in Payson Canyon by Dr. L. D. Pfouts, dentist and amateur naturalist, has been contributed to the Entomological Collection of the Brigham Young University. This collection consists of 63 species and 730 specimens. Fourteen specimens are topotypes of the new species *Argynnis pfoutsi* Gund. This collection is a welcome one, adding materially to the Tom Spalding collection of Utah butterflies and moths which consist of more than 700 species.—V. M. T.